



NUMBER 59

AUGUST 24, 1940

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Number 59

August 24, 1940

KLAN-BUND RALLY ADDRESSED BY COUGHLIN'S FRIEND

Smythe of "Protestant Veterans" Branches Out

One of the significant features of the joint Klan-Bund rally held last Sunday, August 18, in the Bund's Camp Nordland at Andover, New Jersey, was the active participation of Edward James Smythe, leader of the so-called Protestant War Veterans of America. This is the same Smythe who, despite the Ku Klux Klan's hatred of Catholicism and his own professed opposition to the Catholic Church, is an ardent admirer and supporter of the Catholic priest, Father Charles E. Coughlin.

Hates Catholic Church but Praises Coughlin

In a letter written on September 22, 1939, on the official letterhead of the Protestant War Veterans, Smythe thus expressed his attitude to both Coughlin and Coughlin's Church, positive to the former, negative to the latter: "Relative to Father Coughlin, we look upon him as a great American. The Roman Catholic Church is a tricky proposition, always has been, always will be." More than a year earlier, on August 24, 1938, also on his official stationery, Smythe wrote to a correspondent: "We, like Hitler, believe that the Roman Church should be driven out of our political life and out of State affairs. We also believe that the Roman Church, being a foreign business and political unit, all their property should be taxed and a certain Governmental supervision [placed] over their affairs to make them stop bleeding their people of billions of dollars which wind up in Rome."

Coughlin Accepted Smythe's Support

Whether or not Father Coughlin knew of such an anti-Catholic stand on the part of Smythe, the Radio Priest accepted Smythe's allegiance to Coughlin personally. Thus in Coughlin's Social Justice for February 20, 1939, we find that the editor proudly reproduces a lengthy letter of support to Father Coughlin from Smythe, again on the stationery of the Protestant War Veterans. The front page of Social Justice for September 18, 1939, shows a photograph of a picket line of the Coughlinites in front of Radio Station WMCA. The picketers' banners visible on the photograph read: "Protestant War Veterans of the United

States," and "Protestant Chaplains Association," both organizations publicly known as being headed by Smythe. Also in September, 1939, when Father Coughlin suggested a "march of peace" on Washington, it was the anti-Catholic Smythe who at once volunteered to serve as the priest's recruiting agent; of this, Coughlin printed a joyous report in his magazine under the heading: "Coughlin Appeal Starts Recruiting."

Smythe's Following and Aims

At one time, persons acquainted with the inside workings of the fascist movement in America were inclined to dismiss Smythe's following as "letterhead organizations," that is, practically non-existent. On the other hand, Smythe himself, while realizing the limitations of his group, entertained high hopes for the future. In a letter written on September 20, 1939, he declared: "We are a Protestant unit and we are working like mad to put it on the map before 1940." He went on to say that his men were organizing in every state of the Union, that his goal was the banding-together of all the Protestant veterans of the World War whose number he estimated at "eighty per cent of 4,000,000 men." To this he added: "Then we have the Protestants of the Spanish American War and the Mexican Border affair. We not only recruit these men (veterans) but we take in their whole family and their friends as the auxiliary, so it runs into the millions."

A shrewd observer of Smythe and his group remarked that Smythe himself is probably more important than his organizations, since the vast majority of American Protestants regard such activities as Smythe's with extreme disapproval. However, it is generally recognized that Smythe is a rather effective propagandist, and has connections with nearly every fascist group in the East and many in the Middle West.

Smythe, Cassidy, Winrod and Others

Violently anti-Semitic, Smythe has cooperated with Allen Zoll's American Patriots, Inc., John Cassidy's Christian Front, Joe McWilliams' Christian Mobilizers and other fascist groups of New York and vicinity in organizing and sponsoring mass meetings in that notorious Nazi-Coughlin stronghold, Ebling's Casino in the Bronx. He is known to have been associated with Kurt Mertig who organized a fascist organization in Chicago under the name of the Citizens' Protective League. The Bund's Weekruf has frequently printed Smythe's effusions. Smythe's latest activity is his regular column in Publicity, Gerald B. Winrod's and "Dr." J. R. Brinkley's fascist weekly of Wichita, Kansas. The column is entitled "Unmasked! The News Behind The News," and is full of vicious attacks upon democracy, labor groups, Jews, liberals, and the United States Government.

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CAMPAIGN OF "CONSTITUTIONAL EDUCATIONAL LEAGUE"

Group Headed by Joseph Kamp Canvasses Wall
Street for Support -- Conceals un-American
Activities Behind pro-American Slogans

In an effort to enlist support for its anti-democratic activities, the "Constitutional Educational League, Inc." is circularizing certain Wall Street offices with documents purporting to show the League's patriotic accomplishments. J. W. Hughes, who signs the letter accompanying the League's material ominously remarks to the recipient: "So that you may have an idea as to just how serious the FIFTH COLUMN situation is in America, may I call your attention to page 4 of the booklet enclosed." On the specified page of the booklet, The Fifth Column in Washington (see The Hour for August 17); appears "List No. 1." It names eminent Washington "Fifth Columnists," among them; Robert H. Jackson, O. John Rogge, Harry Hopkins, David Sapos, Frances Perkins, and Harold L. Ikes. The booklet includes hundreds of other names, the majority of which are markedly Jewish.

It is significant that in the material, which is being distributed by the League, no mention is made of fascist Fifth Column activity in this country. As far as the League is concerned the Ku Klux Klan, the Christian Front, the Bund, the Silver Shirts and the host of other real Fifth Column groups in the United States are non-existent. The League prefers to direct its efforts against labor unions and liberals. In this program it employs familiar slogans. Its "Realistic Objective" for 1940 is summarized thus: "Our Constitutional Republic must be preserved! Reds on the public pay roll must be purged! That is the issue! That is our goal!" In its effort to purify this country of "Reds," the League carries on extensive work in the fields of "Broadcasting, Research, Literature, Speakers, Investigation, and Leadership Training." The League also publishes a newspaper entitled Headlines, with the object of "presenting Red-News-Behind-The-News."

"Accomplishments" of League

Specific activities of the League are indicated in "A Record of Achievement." This brochure proudly points out that: "With the advent of the Communist inspired and controlled CIO, the League ... assumed the foremost position in the battle to Stop Lewis and SMASH COMMUNISM. During the campaign over 10,000,000 pieces of literature were published; one booklet alone -- 'Join the CIO' -- and help build a SOVIET AMERICA' -- having a circulation of over 2,200,000 copies." Another achievement boasted of is the campaign conducted by the League against the NLRB in 1938. As a result of the League's efforts, says the brochure, "A wave of resentment against the NLRB followed." A third example; "When, in November, the Red elements threatened to halt the Dies Committee, the League began a nation-wide drive in its behalf; secured over 4,000,000 signatures to petitions and deluged Congress with an avalanche of letters and telegrams from aroused patriots. As part of this campaign, Commander Edward E. Spafford, former national head of the (American) Legion, and Chairman of the League's Award Committee, announced that Congressman Dies had been selected to receive the Americanism Award in 1938." The brochure remarks that the League work in 1939

included such "patriotic" efforts as campaigns directed against the WPA, the American Youth Congress, the American Student Union, the NLRB and the New Deal in general; attacks on the Federal Writers' Project and the Federal Theatre Project are listed among the most "successful" efforts of the League during this period.

League Leadership

The Constitutional Educational League operates under the guidance of Joseph P. Kamp. As the last issue of The Hour pointed out, Kamp is an old hand at distributing anti-democratic, anti-labor, anti-Semitic and pro-fascist propaganda. He numbers among his associates some of the outstanding American pro-Nazis. The League would have to search far afield to find a more fitting man to direct its activities.

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FORD'S ANTI-SEMITIC BOOK IN SPANISH

The latest issues of the Spanish-language newspaper in New York La Prensa among other books advertises for sale in its bookstore Henry Ford's The International Jew. The anti-Semitic volume is a collection of articles which originally appeared in the Dearborn Independent, Ford's old publication edited by William J. Cameron. The Spanish title of the book is El Judio Internacional, and the title-page states that it was translated by Enrique Montaldo and published by the Luz Publishing House of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Many copies of this volume were distributed by "persons unknown" among the delegates and newspapermen present at the last year's Pan-American Conference in Lima, Peru. Shortly before the outbreak of the present European war, other copies of the same book were found in the stores in Peru owned by Japanese booksellers dealing in Spanish-language literature.

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STORY OF GIOVANNI MARSICO

Employed in the Western Union office at 40 Broad Street, New York, is a gentleman whose name is Mr. Giovanni Marsico. Mr. Marsico has special responsibilities; he is in charge of all Italian cable traffic in the Metropolitan division.

Mr. Marsico's past record is interesting. In 1921, in Italy, he was in the wireless division of the Italian Army. Although bound by military oath to secrecy and to the constitutional government, he secretly joined the Fascist movement and intercepted and turned over to Mussolini, during the months preceding the March on Rome, many coded Government messages of military importance. During the actual March on Rome, he further distinguished himself by stealing Government supplies of munitions and food-stuffs which he turned over to the Blackshirts.

Today Mr. Marsico is an active member of two organizations of former Italian soldiers; "Nastro Azzurro" and "Associazione Combattenti." Both organizations have their headquarters at the New York Italian Consulate, Palazzo d'Italia, Rockefeller Center.

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